

**Thursday, February 24**

**GENERAL SESSIONS**

**Opening Plenary**

*Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture*

Guest speakers to be announced

9:30 a.m.

**Farm and Trade Prospects for 2000**

*Keith Collins, USDA Chief Economist*

*Gus Schumacher, USDA Under Secretary*

10:30 a.m.

**Panel: The Future of Bio-Engineered Farm Products**

Addressing the controversies over safety, acceptance, and trade

12 noon

**Panel: Farming in the New Millennium**

Crop and livestock producers discuss changes and challenges

1:00 p.m.

**Food Price Briefing**

**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

2:15 p.m. concurrent sessions

**Farm Income and Finance Outlook**

Outlook by farm type and region; financial impacts of structural changes; rural credit markets

**Long-Term Commodity Prospects**

The latest long-term projections from USDA and private forecasters

**Pros and Cons of Production and Marketing Contracts**

What farmers expect, the lessons learned, and future trends

**Rural America in the New Millennium**

The current situation in rural America and the implications for public policy

4:00 p.m. concurrent sessions

**Outlook for WTO Negotiations**

Post-Seattle outlook and U.S. goals for the new World Trade Organization round

**Biotechnology Issues for U.S. Agriculture**

The latest on the approval process for bioengineered crop varieties; the concerns of agronomists, growers, and grain handlers

**Farming Strategies for Weathering Tough Times**

Methods that prove effective in boosting farmers' returns

**Concentration and Structural Change in Agriculture**

Evolving organization of farms and agribusiness; antitrust issues; policy response

**FORUM DINNER - 6:30 p.m.**

With featured speaker; preceded by cash bar at 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 25**

**MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

8:00 a.m. concurrent sessions

**Outlook Sessions: Grains and Oilseeds; Cotton and Fibers; Dairy**

**The Trade Potential of Sub-Saharan Africa**

U.S. Market and investment initiatives; regional views of market development and private investment

**Outlook for Labor-Intensive Agriculture**

Labor developments affecting farm workers and employers, rural communities, and meat packers

10:00 a.m. concurrent sessions

**Outlook Sessions: Livestock and Poultry; Sugar and Sweeteners**

**New Markets for Bio-Based Energy and Industrial Feedstocks**

Demand prospects for bio-based feedstocks for fuel, electricity, and industry

**Marketing Information in the Internet Age**

How will the Internet change produce price discovery and markets? How does the Agricultural Marketing Service fit in?

**The Global Food Market in the 21st Century**

Consolidation trends in the U.S. food export industry; international perspective on global food processing, distribution, and retailing

**NOON LUNCHEONS**

**Grains and Oilseeds; Livestock and Poultry; Cotton; Sweeteners; Fruit and Vegetables**

Preceded by cash bar, 11:30 a.m.; featured speaker at each luncheon

**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1:45 p.m. concurrent sessions

**Potential Impact of E-Commerce**

How electronic commerce could alter the business landscape for agriculture, the farm community, and consumers

**Balancing Livestock Production with Environmental Quality**

Outlook for Federal, state, and local environmental initiatives regarding nutrient management practices of livestock operations

**The Changing Market for Organic Foods**

What consumers want; changes in organic retailing; venture capital considerations

**Animal and Plant Health Issues in Farm Trade**

The impact on U.S. exports and on international trade; case studies of opening markets; setting science-based standards for trade

**U.S. and International Tobacco Outlook**

Trade prospects; follow-up on the tobacco settlement; alternative marketing proposals

**For details on attending the Forum or obtaining speeches afterward:**

**[www.usda.gov/oce](http://www.usda.gov/oce) ● (202) 720-3050 ● [agforum@oce.usda.gov](mailto:agforum@oce.usda.gov)**